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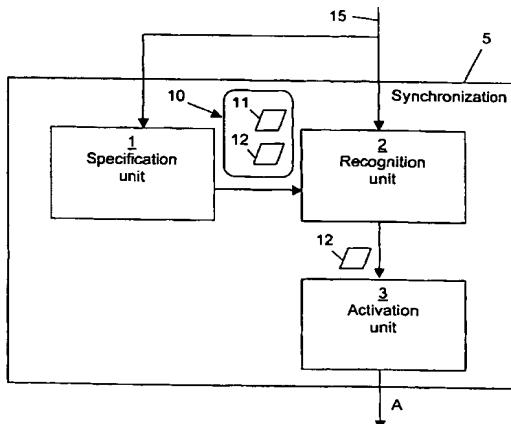
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYNCHRONIZATION SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUDIOVISUAL PROGRAMMES, ASSOCIATED DEVICES AND METHODS



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates in particular to a synchronization system (5) and method. The synchronization system comprises a specification unit (1) for specifying synchronization signals associated with an audiovisual programme (15), the latter comprising an audiovisual content and control information, a recognition unit (2) for recognizing the synchronization signals in a transmitted stream carrying this programme, by recognition of at least one extracted portion of the audiovisual content, and an activation unit (3) triggering an action in case of detection of these signals. The specification unit prepares and transmits to the recognition unit recognition elements (11) making it possible to obtain this extracted portion, as well as at least one action timeout lag in case of detection of the synchronization signals. The recognition or activation unit then delays the triggering of this action according to the lag transmitted, in case of detection of the synchronization signals. In variants, the timeout lag is determined and/or the recognition elements are obtained independently of the specification unit.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 920 477 A (HOFFBERG STEVEN M ET AL) 6 July 1999 (1999-07-06)	1,4,5, 9-12,15, 17-25
Y	abstract column 23, line 65 - column 25, line 20 column 26, line 3 - line 15 column 28, line 21 - column 30, line 45 column 44, line 37 - column 45, line 59 column 69, line 66 - column 70, line 19 column 74, line 13 - line 27 figures 19,22,25-27,30 ----- -/-	2,3,6-8, 13,14,16

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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